

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

No claims are currently being amended. Claims 1-27 are now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 5, 10, 15 and 21 are allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 11-14 and 17-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,062,294 to Rogard et al. ("Rogard") in view of U.S. 20040246889 to Ogawa et al. ("Ogawa").

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least because Ogawa is not prior art to the claims of the present application, and thus the rejection based in part on Ogawa must fail. The present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-274640, filed on September 20, 2002. Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-274640, thus perfecting their claim to a priority date of September 20, 2002, prior to any effective filing date of Ogawa. Accordingly, Ogawa is not prior art to the claims of the present application, and the rejection under section 103 based in part on Ogawa has been overcome.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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